

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is very disturbing to me. While I do not live in a market served by Sinclair, I am a citizen who has a right to voice my opinion on how my public airways are used. To allow a media company to air what is essentially a long, free, political advertisement - regardless of what candidate benefits - is an abuse of the privileges afforded to the broadcaster by the citizens.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.